

## **Benjamin Hawkins to Andrew Jackson, May 26, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

### **COLONEL BENJAMIN HAWKINS TO JACKSON.**

Creek Agency, May 26, 1815

The foregoing<sup>1</sup> is the last communication from Lt. Colo. Nicolls to me. He is explicit as to the disposition of the negros of the Creeks and

<sup>1</sup> The letter from the British officer, Lieut.-Col. Edward Nicholls, dated at "the British Fort on the Appalachicola, April 2, 1815", is as follows:

" *Sir* Being absent from this Post when your letter of the 19 ult arrived I take this opportunity to answer it. On the subject of the Negros lately owned by the citizens of the United states or Indians in hostility to the B. Forces, I have to acquaint you that according to orders I have sent them to the British Colonies where they are received as free settlers and land given to them. The News paper you were so oblidging as to send me is I rather think incorrect but at all events, an American News paper cannot be authority for a British officer. I herewith enclose you a copy of part of the 9th article of the treaty of peace relative to the Indians in alliance with us they have signed and accepted it as an independant People solemnny Promising to suspend all hostilities against the inhabitants of the United States, Within these few days I have had a complaint from the Simenoli Chief Bowlegs he states that a party of American horse have made an incursion into his Towns killed one man wounded another and stole some of his cattle, also that they have Plundered some of his people on their peaceable way from St. augustine, May I request of you to inquire into this affair and cause justice to be done to the murderer and have the cattle restored. I

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strictly promise you that any mischief done the Creeks under me I shall do all in my power to punish the delinquent and have the property restored.

“The Chiefs have requested me farther to declare to you (that in order to prevent any disagreeable circumstances from happening in future) they have come to a determination not to permit the least intercourse between their people and those of the United States. they have in consequence ordered them to cease all communication directly or indirectly with the territory or citizens of the United States, and they do take this public mode of warning the citizens of the United States from entering their territory or communicating directly or indirectly with the Creek people, they also request that you will understand their territory to be as they stood in the year 1811, in my absence. I have directed First Lieutenant William Hambly the Head interpreter to communicate with you on any point relative to the Creeks, and I have given him my most positive orders, that he shall at all times do his best to keep peace and good neighborhood between the Creeks and your citizens.”

“Part of the 9th Article of the treaty of peace between His Britannic majesty and the United States relative to the Indians who have been in alliance with Great Britain, and in hostility with the united states:

“The United States of America engage to put an end, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty, to hostilities with all the tribes or Nations of Indians with whom they may be at War at the time of such ratification, and forthwith to restore to such tribes or nations respectively all the possessions, rights and priviledges which they may have enjoyed, or been entitled to in 1811 previouly to such hostilities provided always that such tribes or Nations shall agree to desist from all hostilities against the United States of America their citizens and subjects, upon the ratification of the present treaty being notified to such tribes or nations, and shall so desist accordingly.

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“We the Undersigned Chiefs of the Muscogee Nation declared by his Britannic Majesty to be a free and independent people, do in the name of the said Nation agree to the annexed 9 art, of the treaty of Peace between his Britannic Majesty and the United States, and we do further declare that we have given most strict and positive orders to all our people that they desist from hostilities of every kind, against the Citizens or subjects of the United States”

citizens taken by him from this Country. He and his three Chiefs attempt to usurp the Government of the Creeks as well as the rights of our fellow citizens within their own territory, my answer dos not admit him or his Chiefs to have any authority in the premises; One of his chiefs does not, nor never did have among the Upper or Lower Creeks he is the Chief of Miccosooke and he or either of the other two never attended our public Councils. A scarcity of paper limits this communication of

Dear General your obt serv